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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Métis–Ojibway filmmaker honored by Native American peers for his documentary chronicling the 1969 American Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island.

As part of this year's annual Indian Summer Festival held in Milwaukee from September 5–7, organizers have added a Native American Film Festival featuring the works of American Indian and Canadian First Nations filmmakers. Among those whose work will be screened is James M. Fortier (Métis–Ojibway), whose directoral debut film, "Alcatraz Is Not An Island," has been selected best documentary feature and will receive an Indian Summer – Delta Vision Image Award.

More about the Indian Summer – Delta Vision Image Awards

**"EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT" OF NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE
THROUGH INDIAN SUMMER DELTAVISION FILM & VIDEO IMAGE
AWARDS**

MILWAUKEE: The first annual Indian Summer Delta Vision Film & Video Image Awards, to be presented on Sept. 6 at the 2003 Indian Summer Festival, have been launched and entries are now being accepted.

The awards are a collaboration between Indian Summer Festival, North America's largest Native American festival; DeltaVision Entertainment, a division of Discover Wisconsin Productions; and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee Office of American Indian Student Services and Department of Film.

The Image Awards have been created to increase awareness of the history and diversity of both traditional and contemporary American Indian culture. The awards are meant to give projects that focus on American Indian topics a broader audience. In addition, the awards are designed to recognize the efforts of filmmakers who explore these topics, and encourage Native people engaged in filmmaking.

The Indian Summer Delta Vision Image Awards aim to honor the best in Native American programming either as film, TV or video projects produced after January 1, 2000. Entrants to the awards program must have either a Native American subject matter or be artistically helmed by a Native American. All entry forms and fees must be postmarked by July 15, 2003.

The ceremony Sept. 6 is part of Indian Summer Festival, which runs Sept. 5–7 at Milwaukee's lakefront Maier Festival Park. In addition, an Indian Summer/UWM Film Fest, held in conjunction with UWM's Annual Autumn Pow-wow, is being planned for October.

Awards will be given in the following eleven categories: Animated, Corporate, Documentary Feature, Documentary Short, Educational Feature Film (Fiction), Feature Film (Non-Fiction), Live Short Subject, Music Video, Public Service, and Sales & Marketing.

At the heart of the Indian Summer DeltaVision Image Awards program is the Spirit Awards. Two Spirit Awards will be given. The first will be awarded to the entry voted best of all categories by the judging panel, with a Native American as filmmaker (i.e., the key artistic contributor, whether producer, writer or director).

A second award will be presented to the entry voted best of all categories by the judging panel with a student filmmaker as the key artistic contributor (producer, writer or director) focusing on a Native American subject.

For more information, contact Indian Summer Festivals, Inc. 10809 W Lincoln Ave., Suite 101 West Allis, WI 53227; phone 414-604-1000 fax 414-774-6810 or e-mail indiansummer@wi.rr.com. The Web site for the Image Awards is at The Indian Summer Festival Web site www.indiansummer.org.